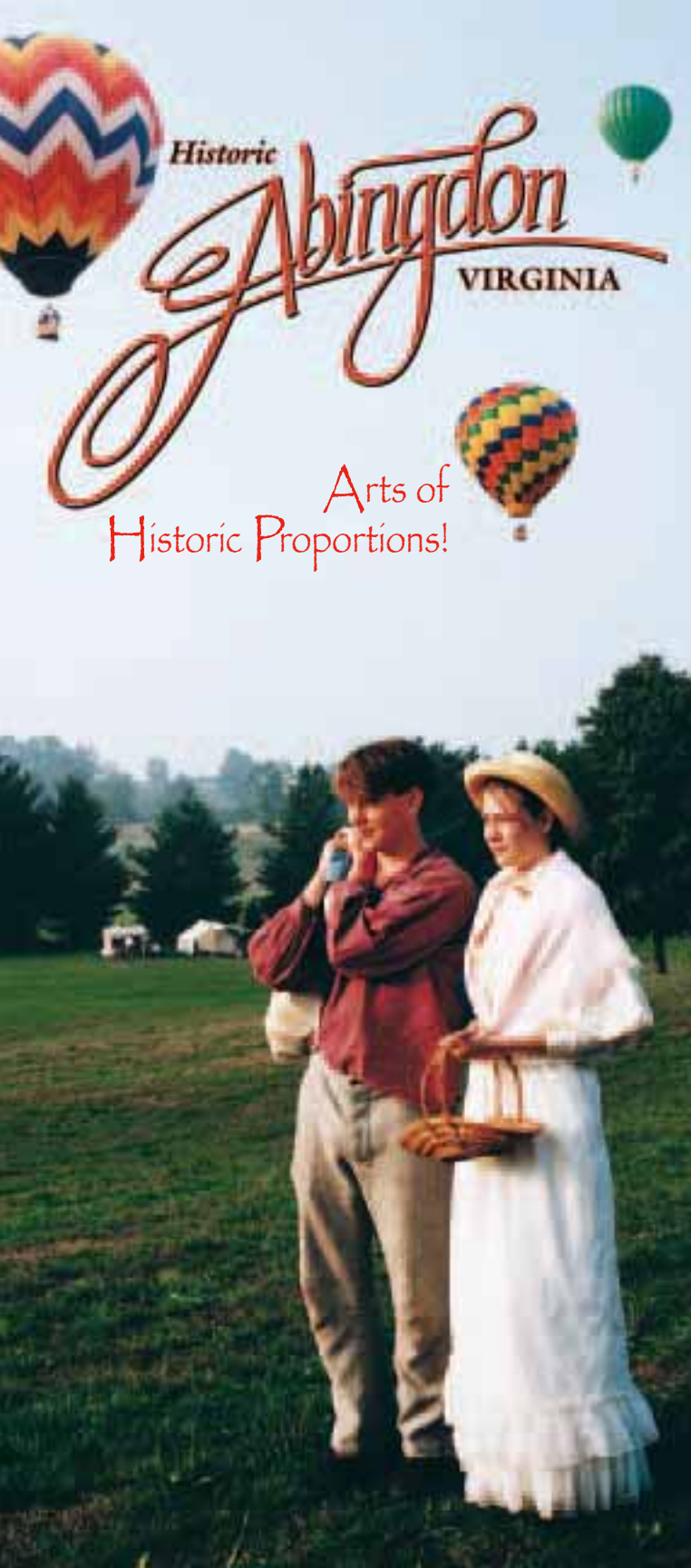


Welcome to Abingdon!



Special Celebrations Throughout the Year.

Join us for other annual events, including Plumb Alley Day in May, the Washington County Fair and Burley Festival in September, and Christmas in Historic Abingdon each December.



Dining & Lodging ~ The Hard Part is the Choosing!

Whether you desire the charm of a historic inn or the economy of a family motel, you can find it here.



Abingdon offers accommodations in every price range. Bed and breakfasts, many in historic homes, are within easy walking distance of the many attractions. Dining establishments — literally dozens of them — cater to every taste and budget.

The Scenic Outdoors.

If the great outdoors beckons, The Virginia Creeper Trail, a 34-mile National Recreation Trail, originates just off Main Street in Abingdon. Enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Also advantage of the nearby Mount Rogers National Recreation



Area, the scenic forks of the Holston River and South Holston Lake, and some of the highest mountains in the Eastern United States.



AN HISTORIC VIRGINIA LANDMARK...

Chartered in 1778, Historic Abingdon, is among the oldest towns west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Early visitors included Native Americans who regarded the area as sacred ground, so rich in natural beauty that they neither settled nor hunted here. Visitors today enjoy that same unspoiled beauty, but alongside the modern amenities which also flourish.

Galleries, Shops & So Much More!

Whether your interest is architecture or the arts, our streets are a delight. Stroll shaded brick sidewalks ... see 200-year-old landmarks ... experience studios, shops and galleries ... savor the courtyards, gardens and outdoor eateries ...



Virginia Highlands Festival.

The first two weeks in August, see why this family festival has been named one of the top 100 tourist events in North America. Browse tents filled with fine antiques, shop the open-air markets, enjoy a concert or play. An exciting lineup of music and performing arts events, geared to varied ages and interests, is offered daily.



ARTS OF HISTORIC PROPORTIONS!

It came as no surprise when Abingdon, long known for its support of artists and the arts, was named one of the 100 best small towns for the arts in the United States.

Discover why as you join visitors from around the world for a production at Barter Theatre, the State Theatre of Virginia and the longest-running professional residence theatre in the country.



Performance photo courtesy Barter Theatre



Or tour one of the museum-standard galleries at the William King Regional Arts Center, a Partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The Center offers a rotating schedule of regional and national exhibits, working studios for artists, a museum store, and regular programs in fine arts and crafts.

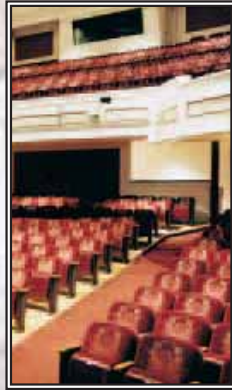
Or see artisans at work in oil, watercolor, fiber and clay at the Arts Depot, a renovated former train station. In addition to working studios, the Arts Depot also features a gallery, dance studio, and The Sow's Ear Press.

Or simply take a walk through downtown Abingdon. From small studios and shops to larger galleries to fine restaurants and corner cafes — work by the region's best artists is here, and in varied and unusual places!





Area residents bartered “ham for Hamlet” during the Depression, giving rise to Barter Theatre’s name and legacy. The State Theatre of Virginia, Barter is the longest-running professional residence theatre in the U.S. Barter counts Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Hume Cronyn and Ned Beatty among its many distinguished alumni. Productions ranging from the classics to original works appear year-round on the Barter Stage.



Completed in 1832, Abingdon’s Martha Washington Inn was originally built as a private residence for General Francis Preston and his wife. The home later served as a Civil War hospital and as the Martha Washington College for Women. It opened its doors as the Inn in 1935, and today reflects the historical charm and elegance of its creation. The Inn features well-appointed guest rooms, restaurants, a gift shops, and breathtaking grounds.



The Tavern, Abingdon’s oldest building, constructed in 1779, played host to such notable guests as President Andrew Jackson and King Louis-Phillipe of France. It later served as a hospital during the Civil War and as the county courthouse.



The William King Regional Arts Center, a Partner of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, features four museum-standard galleries, working studios for artists, a gift shop, and a variety of regional art initiatives. The Center overlooks Abingdon and is a Virginia Historic Landmark.



White’s Mill, circa 1840, is one of only a few water-powered grist mills still in existence in Virginia. A Virginia Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



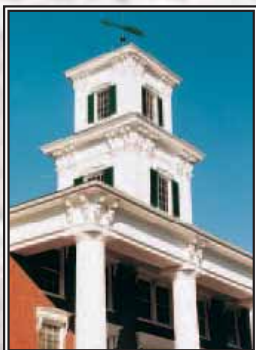
Spectacular in any season, Abingdon’s historic homes are outstanding examples of Federal and Victorian architecture. The town’s 20-block Historic District includes more than 30 structures



which pre-date 1900, at least six of which were constructed during the 1700s. Maps for self-guided walking tours along the town’s brick sidewalks are available, and guided tours are offered at select times during the year or by special arrangement.

...Some Just Seem
To Have More Than Others.

Built at the brink of the Civil War, the Fields-Penn 1860 House Museum gives a glimpse of life as seen through the eyes of the home's first owners, James and Susan Fields and their eight children. Interpreters lead guided tours of the home, which features authentic period room settings. The museum is often the site of special events and exhibits, and living history portrayals and demonstrations are also held here.



The Washington County Courthouse, constructed in 1869, maintains important historical documents and houses the Historical Society of Washington County, a leading center of historical and genealogical research.



Begun in 1949 to celebrate and preserve the cultural heritage of the area, the Virginia Highlands Festival offers antiques, art, fine crafts, music,



performing arts, and a host of other events. Named one of the top 100 tourist events in North America, and one of the top 20 in the Southeast, the 16-day festival is held annually the first two weeks of August.

Historic Abingdon VIRGINIA

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